

REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, claims 1-23 have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies, to replace the words "characterized in that" with the word "wherein", and to make minor editorial changes..

It is requested that the application be examined on the basis of the claims as amended.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

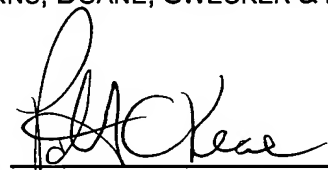
Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: July 16, 2004

By:

  
for Robert S. Swecker Reg No 32,858  
Registration No. 19,885

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620